

May 2024

# THE MESSENGER

The Master's Plan  
Information-  
Gathering  
Sessions  
(see details on back page)

May 19  
Pentecost  
  
Wear Red

May Mission  
Collection  
  
Shoes and Socks  
for LFS

## From Pastor Greg...

Aretha Franklin sang about it. Caitlin Clark got it. Rodney Dangerfield never got any. We're taught it. We want it. We're stingy with it. While Martin Luther's Small Catechism doesn't use the word, the explanations of the commandments (especially 4-10) seem to demand it for God, your neighbor, and yourself.

### Respect.

Respect, sometimes, is easy to give. You're nice to the new neighbor. You use your manners at a fancy dinner. You say "Yes, sir" and "Thank you, ma'am" when you meet your significant other's parents for the first time. And also to the police officer who just pulled you over. You were taught to respect your elders (and as you get older, there are fewer and fewer elders!).



There are other times when respect comes with difficulty or doesn't come at all. It's hard to be respectful to someone who disrespects you. Some people struggle with respect toward people who occupy a different socio-economic class than they do. We even struggle respecting people who root for the wrong sports team.

I believe respect can be earned, but, more importantly, I believe respect should not have to be earned. Respect should be given freely, without hesitation and without thought. Respect should be a way of life. Respect is grace lived out.

You will hear me talk about respect quite often. More specifically, gracious respect – respect that doesn't need to be earned or deserved. Gracious respect is foundational to grateful relationships. And grateful relationships are signs of a healthy and growing church.

*Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other.  
(Romans 12:10)*

## Worship

### Sunday Worship at 8:45 & 10:45 am

May 5 - Holy communion served at both services. High School seniors recognized at the 10:45 service.

May 12 - Recognition of KidsFirst teachers and helpers at both services.

May 19 - Pentecost. Wear Red. Holy Communion served at both services. WAM Kids puppet show.

May 26 - Memorial Day Patriotic Hymn sing at 8:45.

June 2 - Worship at 8:45 am. No communion will be served. At 11:00 am First Lutheran will host other area churches to worship together via livestream from the Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney.

**Hearing Assistance Devices** are now available every Sunday from the Sound Booth.

There are 2 options available: an "in ear" option and an "around the ear" option. Stop by the Sound Booth before worship and pick one up from the Sound Booth Operator.

If you are interested in trying a phone app with your current hearing aids, contact Amy in the church office and she will help you explore that option.



**John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

The altar candles have been updated. FLC uses oil-filled candles during worship each week. An Altar Team member comes in weekly to refill these candles. Recently new candles were purchased with the blessings of memorial money. These new candles were difficult to fit into our existing holders. With talented help, we were able to have them adapted to fit our candle holders.

FLC is blessed with the memorials given and the Altar Team is happy to have new bright candles burning.

**Radio Sponsors Needed:** We are in need of sponsors for the weekly radio broadcast for all of May, June and July. Sign up from our website or call the church office. The weekly sponsorship is \$160.

## Discipleship



**WOW (Women of the Word)** - The WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet at church on Wednesday, May 8, at 9:30 am in the Heritage Room. Evelyn Eldridge will lead the study: *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. New faces always welcome!

**Faith Study Group** - Faith Study Group will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 9, at 7:00 pm in the conference room.

**Chick Flicks:** On Tuesday, May 7, the Chick Flicks will meet in the Youth Room and watch a movie and share in fellowship and discussion. All women are invited to attend.

**Men's Study Group:** Join this group on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the Heritage Room. The coffee is always on. The group is studying the book of Matthew. Come anytime it works into your schedule.

**Sunday Morning Study:** Kris Lindgren is leading a study on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Heritage Room. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. Jesus encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implication of what he was saying and doing. Nooma is an invitation to search, question and join the discussion. Come as your schedule allows.

**Midlands Conference Spring Gathering** will be held at Salem Lutheran Church, Fontanelle, on Saturday, May 4. Cost is \$20. All women are invited to attend. Contact Eileen Thornburg, Wendy Olson or Carol Bohling if you are interested.

# Discipleship



## From Deacon Karen Melang...

Here's how you and other members of First Lutheran are reaching out to those who are unable to attend worship or receive Holy Communion regularly. There are usually about 35 people in this situation. About a dozen volunteers and Deacon Karen visit these members regularly in their homes or care facilities. Friendly visiting, catching up on what's new and sharing memories fill these anticipated visits.

FLC visitors also bring Holy Communion when they visit. Each visitor has a copy of a short communion service which recalls Jesus' words: *This is my body given for you. This is my blood shed for you.* The service includes prayer and blessing.

Visitors bring the communion in small packets of wine and grape juice, packets which you might remember from pandemic days when they were used in our in-person communion services.

These communion elements have been consecrated, along with the bread and wine on the altar, by Pastor at one of our regular services. You might notice a glass bowl filled with these portable communion packets on the altar at some communion services. These are consecrated, along with all the other communion elements, and readied to be taken to those who cannot be present.

We are one big family in Christ. If people cannot come to the communion table, your FLC friends bring the table to them.

If someone you know needs a "home communion," please let Deacon Karen know.

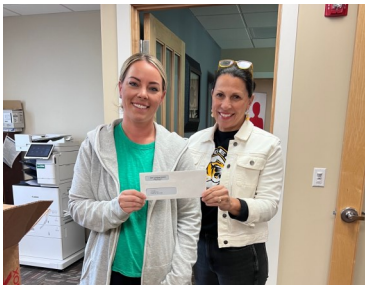


**First Communion:** These young people and their families participated in the First Communion workshop in March.

Back row: Sophia Frankin, Jake Beckman, Jackson Morgan, Addison Morgan, Jenna Dahl, Riley Allen, Kennedy Walbridge, Front row: Sawyer Russman, Riki Beckman, Makenna Fezette, Merrick Fairhead, Oliver Slykhuis, Lincoln Walbridge, Hudson Wilt

## Mission and Outreach

See the many gifts God has given through His people.



**Mission Collections:** Thank you for your generous donations to The Bridge during Lent. A total of \$5172 was given to The Bridge. The money was given through Lenten offerings, Lent meal proceeds, and from the Egg-sperience meal. You also gave 73 jars of peanut butter, 42 jars of jelly and 72 juice boxes which were delivered recently to The Bridge.



**April's Collection will be for Rebuilding Together.** We are just winding up the April collection. Watch for the loose change total in next month's newsletter.

**May Mission Collection:** During May, we will be collecting shoes and socks for kids birth to age 6 for Lutheran Family Services. Any style of shoe or sock can be given. The items will be given to The Boutique at the Center for Healthy families. Families earn points and can use them in the boutique. There will be an Amazon wish list posted on our website for your shopping convenience or to get ideas. Or you can donate Amazon gift cards and someone else will shop for you. All donations must be received by June 2. The shoes will be auctioned off at the LFS Fremont Family Friends event on June 4.





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**Mobile Banquet:** The next mobile meal will be served on May 9. This month's meal will feature sub sandwiches. We are looking for donations of individual chip bags along with individually wrapped brownies, dill pickles and cheese slices. Help will be needed to assemble the meals, drive the bus, distribute the meals, and clean up. Signup from our website, call the church office, or fill out a yellow card to offer your help.



**The Quilters:** The Quilters have been busy and have a bunch of squares ready to be sewn together. And with all the tops being sewn they need help on Wednesday, May 15, to tie them. Come to the church at 1:00 pm to help and share in some fellowship. No experience is necessary to help tie!

**2024 Food Truck Festival:** Save the Date! The Food Truck Festival is returning again this year to the church parking lot on Thursday, July 25. If you have any contact information for or have a favorite food truck, please let the office know and we will see if they are available for the date. This is a great community event and the vendors each give a portion of their proceeds to the Fremont Area United Way.



**Flower Cart:** On Sunday, May 12, we will have carnations available for a free will donation. Give a flower to someone special. Proceeds will start our summer collection for the Fremont Area United Way.

## Summer Schedule:

This summer's theme is "Summer Settings" and we are fine-tuning our summer events schedule. The kick-off event will be a local clean-up event on June 1 beginning at 9 am. We are still coordinating with the Fremont city street department. Watch for more information coming soon on this and other summer activities.



**Red Cross Blood Drive:** The next blood drive at First Lutheran is scheduled for Sunday, June 2. If you want to signup to donate blood, go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), put in the zip code of 68025, and scroll down until you see our drive. If you need help making an appointment, please call Niki at 402-720-1825.

# Children and Youth

**The Early Learning Center is hiring a full-time infant teacher.** If you or someone you know may be interested in this position, please contact Mindy Olson by email ([mindyo@flcfremont.org](mailto:mindyo@flcfremont.org)) or phone (402-721-2959).



Preschoolers viewing the eclipse



First Lutheran Preschool has been nominated for the Best of Fremont 2024 Best Preschool. You can vote once a day per email account until May 8. You will find the Preschool vote under the Services tab.

<https://fremonttribune.com/exclusive/readerschoice/ballot-2024/>



# Look What's Been Happening at FLC!

Photos from the First Communion Workshop, Easter Egg-sperience, Confirmation, FLYs and the Midland University Choir.





## Council Highlights - April

- Attendance for the week of April 21 was much higher than previous weeks: first service was 230, second service attendance was 141.
- The next Mobile Banquet is scheduled for May 9 at John C Fremont Park.
- Expenses continue to be under budget for the year – projecting less of a budget loss than originally projected for the year which is a positive development.
- May 14 – First Lutheran will be the polling site for three precincts – this will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, Secretary of FLC Council

\*\* Full minutes are available upon request

### Monthly Financial Report

	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 63,460.07	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 490,000.00	\$ 533,242.04	\$ 431,666.03
General Income	\$ 67,203.77	\$ 67,726.66	\$ 517,051.70	\$ 575,557.26	\$ 457,931.19
Mission Income	\$ 9,978.01	\$ 9,504.16	\$ 37,029.20	\$ 74,001.62	\$ 35,729.15
Expenses	\$ 69,900.80	\$ 79,129.50	\$ 579,747.50	\$ 538,037.05	\$ 550,782.01
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ 7,280.98	\$ (1,898.68)	\$ (25,666.60)	\$ 111,521.83	\$ (57,121.67)
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 5,745.00			\$ 25,562.67	\$ 71,154.68
<b>Build Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 23,792.28</b>				

March was another positive month. Although pledged giving was slightly under budget, expenses were also under budget including Pastoral costs during this transition month resulting in a \$7K profit for the month. \$111K profit YTD with pledge giving \$100K higher than last year and the cost savings with the Rejoice Pastoral share. These things should help to end the year with a loss of less than \$50K which is so much more positive than anticipated. We will start the budget process for 2024-2025 fiscal year in the next couple months so look forward to continued positive trends. Happy Spring! ~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator

**Targeted Giving...** (as of 3/31/2024) We want to give people of FLC the opportunity to give in a *targeted* way around their particular interests and passion, as well as the needs of our mission and ministry. The following categories have primarily existed in our Memorial and Special Gift Account, but we want you to be aware of these different funds on an on-going basis. Your financial support in these *targeted* areas will bring critical support to the ministry of our congregation! Thank you for the many ways that you give!



Worship/Music	\$6,401.65	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$6,597.90	Children's WAM	\$604.09
Technology	\$3,332.41	Good Samaritan	\$2,790.46	Spoudazo	\$6,561.16
Church Home	\$8,071.95	Radio Broadcast	\$4,451.00	Zoe!	\$3,293.07
Building Maint.	\$26,817.28	Prayer Shawl	\$1,556.97	ELC Tuition Assistance	
KidsFirst	\$2,933.58	Quilt Ministry	\$4,107.27		\$1,540.21
First Lutheran Youth	\$7,393.30				

# Planning... Giving... Growing...

Congratulations on “getting to it” and beginning the journey of developing an estate plan! Depending on what age group you are in, you are likely in the minority of people who have a will or have done any estate planning!

Today, 40% of American adults say they don't have a will because they haven't gotten around to it. Although 81% of people over the age of 72 have a will, only 45% of those age 55 or older have a will and for those under age 55, the percentage drops to just 27%.

Here are some ways individuals can contribute to the First Lutheran Endowment fund:

**Cash Donations:** Direct financial contributions are a common way to support an endowment fund. Donors can give cash or write checks specifically designated for the endowment.

**Securities:** Donating publicly traded securities (such as stocks or bonds) can be tax-efficient. Transferring appreciated securities directly to the endowment fund allows donors to avoid capital gains taxes.

**Real Estate:** Some individuals choose to gift real estate properties to the endowment. This could include land, residential properties, or commercial buildings.

**Life Insurance Policies:** Donors can name the church's endowment fund as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. This ensures that a portion of the policy's proceeds will support the church's long-term mission.

**Bequests:** Including the church endowment fund in one's will or estate plan is a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy. Bequests can be a percentage of the estate, a specific dollar amount, or a residual bequest after other distributions.

**Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs):** CGAs allow donors to make a gift to the endowment while receiving fixed payments during their lifetime. After the donor's passing, the remaining funds go to the endowment.

**Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs):** Like CGAs, CRTs provide income to the donor during their lifetime. Afterward, the remaining assets are transferred to the endowment fund.

**Memorial Gifts:** Congregants may wish to make a memorial gift to the endowment in memory of a deceased loved.

These are just a few of the most common giving options which when given to First Lutheran endowment fund can have immediate impact as well as build a legacy for years to come. Talk to your financial consultant about which of these methods is right for you.

The FLC Endowment Board

Barry Benson, Brian Brodd, Chris Coffman, Jeremy Hansen, Wendy Olson, Steve Pike and Kent Speicher.

## Remembering in Prayer

**Remember to let the church office know if you are facing a health concern or will be in the hospital so someone can be in contact with you. If you request, the prayer chain will also be activated. It is also helpful to our FirstCare ministry if you let us know about someone who could use a caring call.**

**Prayers of healing** for Julie Fechner.

**Prayers of peace** for:

- Mary Ann Thomas on the loss of her sister Betty Glover.
- Dwayne & Niki Jesse and family on the loss of his father Dwayne R. Jesse.

**Baptism:**

April 7 - **Lillian Ellen Morton** Parents: Justin & Megan Morton

April 21 - **Ainsley Jane Brumbaugh** Parents: Travis & Lacey Brumbaugh

*Our thoughts  
and prayers  
are with you.*



**The Master's Plan:** Twenty-five years ago, First Lutheran Church purchased 30 acres on the edge of town, relocating to it some five years later. What are your thoughts, hopes, and dreams for how this property can best be used for God's glory and purpose? The Master's Plan committee will be hosting information-gathering sessions between Sunday morning services on April 28 and May 5. Please plan to come and share your thoughts with them -- they want to hear from you! If you are unable to attend one of the workshops, please visit with one of the committee: Dave Poppe (chair), Drew Fairhead, Kathy Kirby, Jill Miller or Nick Vrba. The Master's Plan committee plans to do a congregational survey in the future.

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### Snow Touchups

There wasn't a lot of snow on Sunday mornings this winter, but we want to thank all those snow-loving people who volunteered to keep our sidewalks clean during those times when we did have snow and ice and worship.

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**Door Upgrades:** A donor designated memorial funds to integrate all main entrances into our security system. The office entrance now has a handicap push plate. Upgrades were made to the education wing door and the kitchen door. The kitchen door now has a camera and a buzzer system to allow staff to remotely grant access through that door as needed for funerals and other events.

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### Welcome Pastor Greg DeBoer and family!

On Sunday, April 21, we welcomed Pastor Greg as our Lead Pastor. He will be installed on Sunday, June 16, at both services. Pastor and Gina have moved into their Fremont home. Gina and youngest son Levi will stay in Iowa until he finishes school at the end of May. They are also hosting an exchange student back in Iowa. Thank you to those who have already welcomed them and those who have signed up to welcome him with a meal.